

CLAIMS

1. A vehicle washing apparatus comprising:

a movable support;

a cleaning element attached to said movable support;

said cleaning element comprising;

a base component having a plurality of spaced slots formed therein; and

a plurality of cleaning strips extending through said slots to attach said strips to said base component.

2. A vehicle washing apparatus according to claim 1 wherein each of said cleaning strips extends through one of said slots in one direction and extends through an adjacent slot in an opposite direction.

3. A vehicle washing apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said base component has a front side and a back side and each of said cleaning strips extends through one of said slots in a direction from the front side to the back side and extends through an adjacent slot in an opposite direction from the back side to the front side to form a pair of outwardly extending legs for each cleaning strip.

4. A vehicle washing apparatus according to claim 3 wherein said slots are elongated and certain of said slots are positioned closer to a first edge of said base component and

other of said slots are positioned closer to an opposite edge of said base component and certain of said cleaning strips extend through a pair of slots closer to said first edge and other of said cleaning strips extend through a pair of slots closer to said opposite edge.

5. A vehicle washing apparatus according to claim 4 wherein each cleaning strip extending through a pair of slots closer to said first edge is in overlapping relationship to a cleaning strip extending through a pair of slots closer to said second edge.

6. A vehicle washing apparatus according to claim 1 wherein each of said cleaning strips is comprised of a deep pile, fur-like material.

7. A vehicle washing apparatus according to claim 6 wherein each of said cleaning strips is comprised of a backing having said deep pile, fur-like material attached to one side thereof and wherein each cleaning strip is formed by folding the other side of said backing over on itself whereby the other side of said backing is on an inside of said cleaning strip and said deep pile, fur-like material is on an outside of said cleaning strip.

8. A vehicle washing apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said slots are formed in a plurality of first and second alternating pairs of slots, with said first pairs of slots being positioned closer to a first edge of said base component and said second pairs of slots being positioned closer to an opposite edge of said base component.

9. A rotatable brush assembly for a vehicle washing apparatus, said brush assembly comprising:

- a hub;

- a plurality of cleaning elements mounted on said hub in stacked relationship;

- each said cleaning element comprising;

- a base component having a plurality of spaced slots formed therein; and

- a plurality of cleaning strips extending through said slots to attach said strips to said base component.

10. A rotatable brush assembly for a vehicle washing apparatus according to claim 9 wherein said base component has a front side and a back side and each of said cleaning strips extends through one of said slots in a direction from the front side to the back side and extends through an adjacent slot in an opposite direction from the back side to the front side to form a pair of outwardly extending legs for each cleaning strip.

11. A rotatable brush assembly for a vehicle washing apparatus according to claim 10 wherein said slots are elongated and certain of said slots are positioned closer to a first edge of said base component and other of said slots are positioned closer to an opposite edge of said base component and certain of said cleaning strips extend through a pair of slots closer to said first edge and other of said cleaning strips extend through a pair of slots closer to said opposite edge.

12. A rotatable brush assembly for a vehicle washing apparatus according to claim 11 wherein each cleaning strip extending through a pair of slots closer to said first edge is in overlapping relationship to a cleaning strip extending through a pair of slots closer to said second edge.

13. A rotatable brush assembly for a vehicle washing apparatus according to claim 9 wherein each of said cleaning strips is comprised of a deep pile, fur-like material.

14. A rotatable brush assembly for a vehicle washing apparatus according to claim 13 wherein each of said cleaning strips is comprised of a backing having said deep pile, fur like material attached to one side thereof and wherein each cleaning strip is formed by folding the other side of said backing over on itself whereby the other side of said backing

is on an inside of said cleaning strip and said deep pile, fur like material is on an outside of said cleaning strip.

15. A rotatable brush assembly for a vehicle washing apparatus according to claim 9 wherein said slots are formed in a plurality of first and second alternating pairs of slots, with said first pairs of slots being positioned closer to a first edge of said base component and said second pairs of slots being positioned closer to an opposite edge of said base component.

16. A method of manufacturing a cleaning element for a vehicle washing apparatus comprising the steps of:

forming a base component;

forming a plurality of spaced slots in said base component;

forming a plurality of cleaning strips; and

attaching each of said cleaning strips to said base component by inserting said cleaning strips through said slots.

17. A method of manufacturing a cleaning element according to claim 16 wherein each of said cleaning strips is inserted through one of said slots in one direction and then inserted through an adjacent slot in an opposite direction.

18. A method of manufacturing a cleaning element according to claim 17 wherein said base component is formed with a front side and a back side and each of said cleaning strips is inserted through one of said slots in a direction from the front side to the back side and then inserted through an adjacent slot in an opposite direction from the back side to the front side to form a pair of outwardly extending legs for each cleaning strip.

19. A method of manufacturing a cleaning element according to claim 18 wherein said slots are elongated and certain of said slots are positioned closer to a first edge of said base component and other of said slots are positioned closer to an opposite edge of said base component and certain of said cleaning strips are inserted through a pair of slots closer to said first edge and other of said cleaning strips are inserted through a pair of slots closer to said opposite edge.

20. A method of manufacturing a cleaning element according to claim 19 wherein each cleaning strip inserted through a pair of slots closer to said first edge is positioned in overlapping relationship to a cleaning strip extending through a pair of slots closer to said second edge.

21. A method of manufacturing a cleaning element according to claim 16 wherein each of said cleaning strips is comprised of a deep pile, fur like material.

22. A method of manufacturing a cleaning element according to claim 21 wherein each of said cleaning strips is formed of a backing having said deep pile, fur like material attached to one side thereof and wherein each cleaning strip is formed by folding the other side of said backing over on itself whereby the other side of said backing is on an inside of said cleaning strip and said deep pile, fur like material is on an outside of said cleaning strip.

23. A method of manufacturing a cleaning element according to claim 16 wherein said slots are formed in a plurality of first and second alternating pairs of slots, with said first pairs of slots being positioned closer to a first edge of said base component and said second pairs of slots being positioned closer to an opposite edge of said base component.